

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 205957
ORIGIN SS-25

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O 160147Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 205957

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, SA, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO KING KHALID

1. EMBASSY SHOULD DELIVER SOONEST FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TO HIS MAJESTY KING KHALID. THERE WILL BE NO SIGNED ORIGINAL.
2. BEGIN TEXT: YOUR MAJESTY: I WANT YOU TO KNOW OF MY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR THE EXTREMELY HELPFUL STATEMENT WHICH YOUR GOVERNMENT ISSUED AUGUST 11 IN SUPPORT OF THE FORTHCOMING MIDDLE EAST MEETING AT CAMP DAVID.

I WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF MY THOUGHTS AS THAT MEETING APPROACHES.

WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT SADAT HAVE BOTH RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE INVITATION TO
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MEET WITH ME NEXT MONTH IN A MAJOR NEW EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT. WE HAVE PURPOSELY NOT SET A FIXED DURATION FOR THE TALKS, SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 6, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO ALLOW AS MUCH TIME AS IS NEEDED FOR OUR EFFORTS TO SUCCEED. THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH ALL PARTIES ARE APPROACHING THIS MEETING.

I EXTENDED THIS INVITATION BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE HAVE REACHED A CRUCIAL POINT IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. NINE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OPENED SIGNIFICANT NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE HISTORIC MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM AND IN ISMAILIA. THE SIDES HAVE MADE PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT DIVIDE THEM AT THIS TIME, BUT RECENTLY, AS YOU ARE AWARE, AN IMPASSE WAS THREATENED. I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD AN IMPASSE, SINCE THE POSITIONS WOULD THEN HARDEN AND THE ATMOSPHERE DETERIORATE TO THE POINT WHERE THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE COULD WELL BECOME ANOTHER OF THE LOST OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE MARKED THE HISTORY OF THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT.

THE OBJECTIVE AT THE CAMP DAVID MEETING WILL REMAIN AS IT HAS BEEN DEFINED BY THE TWO SIDES THEMSELVES IN NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR: TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT ON A FRAMEWORK, BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, THAT WOULD ALLOW STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE AGREED GOAL OF A STABLE, JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. SUCH AN AGREED FRAMEWORK MIGHT HELP TO BRING OTHER PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT INTO THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

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OUR EXPERIENCE IN ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE AND PROMOTE NEGOTIATIONS THIS PAST YEAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND A CERTAIN POINT ON THE CRUCIAL ISSUES UNLESS THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THEMSELVES CAN BE ENGAGED IN A DIRECT EXCHANGE. THIS WAS ONE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT LED ME TO THE DECISION TO EXTEND INVITATIONS TO THE TWO LEADERS TO MEET WITH ME AT CAMP DAVID. OUR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WHICH CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE NEGOTIATORS ON THE KEY ISSUES. I PLAN TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ACHIEVE THE PROGRESS FOR WHICH WE ARE ALL SEARCHING.

YOUR MAJESTY, I KNOW THAT YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT FULLY SENSE THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE TALKS, WHICH HOLD THE HOPE OF A MAJOR STEP FORWARD DESPITE THE REAL DIFFICULTIES. AS WE ENTER THE CAMP DAVID TALKS I WILL HAVE VERY MUCH IN MIND THE VIEWS WHICH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT HAVE EXPRESSED TO ME AND SECRETARY VANCE IN OUR NUMEROUS CONSULTATIONS ON THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. INsofar AS OUR EFFORTS AT CAMP DAVID ARE CONCERNED, WE WILL BE GUIDED

BY OUR VIEWS ON A JUST AND LASTING PEACE WHICH WE HAVE
CONSISTENTLY CONVEYED TO YOU OVER THE MONTHS PAST.

I RELY GREATLY ON YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND FULL SUPPORT IN
THE TASK ON WHICH WE ARE EMBARKING.

WITH MY BEST WISHES,

SINCERELY,

JIMMY CARTER. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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